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BOOK REVIEWS.

A SHORT CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. By Francis Newton Thorpe, Author of "A (State) Constitutional History of the American People, 1776-1850," "The Constitutional History of the United States, 1765-1895," "The Government of the People of the United States, etc." Little, Brown & Co. Boston: 1904.

Few men have the time to read any of the several extended works dealing with our constitutional history, yet none of us can understand the basic principles of our government without knowing something of the history of our fundamental law. This book, therefore, will fill the need so often expressed, of a good, modern, one-volume text-book in American constitutional history.

The present volume narrates the constitutional history both of the Union and of the States, showing the common basis of American local and general government.

The chapters on the State constitutions treat of a subject too much neglected. A study of the subject quickly reveals its importance. Since 1865 the thought of Americans has turned chiefly to national matters, not without a distinct decay of interest in commonwealth affairs. Yet it is in the State constitutions adopted since 1865 that one may read the record of serious attempts to adapt the written form of government to the immediate needs of the people.

GOLD AND BLAKEMORE ON BANKRUPTCY. The Bankruptcy Act of 1898 annotated and explained with the amendments thereto, all the important and latest Federal and State decisions thereon, and the general orders and forms established by the U. S. Supreme Court. By John M. Gould, joint editor of Gould and Tucker's Notes on the United States Revised Statutes, and Arthur W. Blakemore, of the Boston Bar. Little, Brown & Company. Boston: 1904.

When the Bankruptcy Act of 1898 was first enacted, it was freely predicted that it would soon meet the fate of the Bankrupt Acts of 1800, 1841 and 1867, and suffer an early repeal, but it seems now to be generally admitted that the present act is substantially satisfactory in its operation and is on our Federal statute book to remain. There is no subject within Federal jurisdiction with which the average lawyer needs to be more intimately acquainted. The method of treatment pursued in this work is exceeding convenient. There is no better way to treat a statute than to follow each section with a concise and classified statement of the decisions thereunder, and we have seen no work on bankruptcy which puts the learning on the subject in more accessible form. The decisions under each section are brought down to May 1st, 1900.

HOGG'S EQUITY PROCEDURE. Equity Procedure embodying the principles of pleading and practice applicable to courts of equity and containing many precedents of general practical utility. Designed to meet the demands of practice in Virginia and West Virginia and for general use in other States. By Charles E. Hogg, author of "Pleading and Forms," and of "Equity Principles." The W. H. Anderson Company. Law Book Publishers. Cincinnati: 1903.

Before reviewing this work we have purposely waited to test its value by actual experience in practice. As the author of the work is a member of the West Virginia bar, we suppose that his work as yet has not come into general

use in Virginia, but we can say with confidence that as soon as the virtues of the book become known to Virginia lawyers it will be widely used and cited. The great similarity between the Virginia and West Virginia statutes and practice makes it altogether possible for a West Virginia lawyer, acquainted with the practice in his own State and with the Virginia decisions, to write most intelligently upon all questions treated by Mr. Hogg. The work contains one thousand, six hundred and eighty-nine pages, nearly seven hundred of which are devoted to equity forms, many of which do not appear in any modern Virginia book. We think that Hogg's Equity Procedure is a most desirable, if not a necessary, addition to the library of the Virginia lawyer.

HUGHES' FEDERAL PROCEDURE. Handbook of jurisdiction and procedure in United States Courts. By Robert M. Hughes, M. A., of the Norfolk (Va.) bar, author of Handbook of Admiralty Law. West Publishing Company. St. Paul, Minn.: 1904.

This is the thirtieth volume of the Hornbook Series. It is the work of a man well known and highly esteemed by the Virginia bar—one who has been honored with the presidency of our State Bar Association, and whose qualifications to write on the subject of Federal Procedure will be admitted by all.

We are glad that the subject of Federal Procedure has at last been treated on the "Hornbook" plan. It is with genuine relief that a busy lawyer takes up one of the Hornbooks when he wishes ready reference to general principles or rules. With those whose appearance in Federal Courts is not frequent, a work thus arranged will find a special welcome.

A peculiarly valuable feature of the work is the plan which the author has adopted of commencing with the courts in which cases originate, and working up to and through the courts of last resort. This plan would seem to be so obviously reasonable and desirable that it is strange it has not been uniformly followed.

The rules of the United States Supreme Court, and the rules of practice for the courts of equity of the United States, which are given in an appendix, are up to date and will be found of great practical convenience.

ROSE'S UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DIGEST. Digest of the United States Reports from the beginning to the October term, 1902. Volume 1 to 186 United States, inclusive, with table of cases, table of citations of all non-Federal cases cited by the Supreme Court, table of citations of constitutional and statutory provisions, State and Federal, and the equity, admiralty and general rules of the Supreme Court. In three volumes. By Walter Malins Rose, author of Notes on United States Reports. Bancroft-Whitney Company, San Francisco. 1903.

"Rose's Notes," though published only a few years ago, have already become necessary to the thorough and expeditious investigation of any question of law. Mr. Rose in the preparation of his Notes found that the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States contained many points which did not appear in the syllabi, and hitherto have not appeared in any of the Digests. It is for this reason that he undertook the preparation of a new Digest. His experience in the preparation of his Notes has fitted him perhaps above all others to give the profession a Digest of real merit. When we take into consideration the overshadowing authority of the Supreme Court of the United States, binding in many cases and persuasive in all, we hail with delight a Digest which brings to the surface many points hitherto lost because undigested. It is not safe for a lawyer without first consulting Rose's Digest to reach the conclusion that the Supreme Court of the United States has not passed on any given question of law.